NUMB. CCXC.

The SPECTATOR.

Spirat Tragicum satis, & fœliciter Audet. Hor.

Friday, February 1. 1712.

THE Players, who know I am very much their Friend, take all Opportunities to expreſs a Gratitude to me for being ſo. They could not have a better Occaſion of me, than one which they lately took Hold deſired my Friend WILL. HONEYCOMB to to the Reading of a new Tragedy, it is cal- *Diſtreſſed Mother*. I muſt confeſs, tho' ſome paſſed ſince I enjoyed that Entertainment, ons of the ſeveral Characters dwell ſtrong- y Imagination; and I congratulate to the they are at laſt to ſee Truth and humane reſented in the Incidents which concern He- Heroines. The Stile of the Play is ſuch thoſe of the firſt Education, and the worthy thoſe of the higheſt Figure. It exquiſite Pleaſure to me, to obſerve real op from the Eyes of thoſe who had long their Profeſſion to diſſemble Affliction; the Player who read, frequently throw down ook, till he had given Vent to the Humanity oſe in him at ſome irreſiſtible Touches of ined Sorrow. We have ſeldom had any Diſtreſs on the Stage, which did not, upon amination, appear to flow from the Weak- ather than the Misfortune of the Perſon re- But in this Tragedy you are not enter- with the unguverned Paſſions of ſuch as are of each other meerly as they are Men Women, but their Regards are founded upon ceptions of each other's Virtue and Merit; haracter which gives Name to the Play, is behaved her ſelf with heroick Virtue moſt important Circumſtances of a female of a Wife, a Widow, and a Mo- there be thoſe whoſe Minds have been upon the Affairs of Life, to have otion of the Paſſion of Love in ſuch Ex- are known only to particular Tempers, the above-mentioned Conſiderations, the the Heroine will move even the Genera- Mankind. Domeſtick Virtues concern all and there is no one living who is not that *Andromache* ſhould be an imitable Character. The generous Affection to the Memory of her deceaſed Husband, that tender Care for her Son, which is ever heightned with the Conſideration of his Father, and theſe Regards preſerved in ſpite of being tempted with the Poſſeſſion of the higheſt Greatneſs, are what cannot but be venerable even to ſuch an Audience as at preſent frequents the *Engliſh* Theatre. My Friend WILL. HONEYCOMB commended ſeveral tender things that were ſaid, and told me they were very genteel; but whiſpered me, that he feared the Piece was not buſy enough for the preſent Taſte. To ſupply this, he recommended to the Players to be very careful in their Scenes, and above all things, that every Part ſhould be perfectly new dreſs'd. I was very glad to find they did not neglect my Friend's Admonition, becauſe there are a great many in his Claſs of Criticiſm who may be gained by it; but indeed the Truth is, that as to the Work it ſelf, it is every where Nature. The Perſons are of the higheſt Quality in Life, even that of Princes; but their Quality is not repreſented by the Poet with Direction that Guards and Waiters ſhould follow them in every Scene, but their Grandeur appears in Greatneſs of Sentiment, flowing from Minds worthy their Condition. To make a Character truly Great, this Author underſtands that it ſhould have its Foundation in ſuperiour Thoughts and Maxims of Conduct. It is very certain, that many an honeſt Woman would make no Difficulty, tho' ſhe had been the Wife of *Hector*, for the Sake of a Kingdom, to marry the Enemy of her Husband's Family and Country; and indeed who can deny but ſhe might be ſtill an honeſt Woman, but no Heroine? That may be defenſible, nay laudable, in one Character, which would be in the higheſt Degree exceptionable in another. When *Caro Uticenſis* killed himſelf, *Cottius*, a *Roman* of ordinary Quality and Character, did the ſame thing; upon which one ſaid, ſmiling, '*Cottius* might have lived 'tho' *Cæſar* has ſeized the *Roman* Liberty. *Cottius*'s Condition might have been the ſame, let things at the upper End of the World paſs as they would. What is further very extraordinary in this Work,

is,

is, that the Persons are all of them laudable, and their Misfortunes arise rather from unguarded Virtue than Propensity to Vice. The Town has an Opportunity of doing it self Justice in supporting the Representations of Passion, Sorrow, Indignation, even Despair it self, within the Rules of Decency, Honour, and good Breeding; and since there is no one can flatter himself his Life will be always fortunate, they may here see Sorrow as they would wish to bear it whenever it arrives.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'I Am appointed to act a Part in the new Tra-
'gedy, called *The Distressed Mother*: It is the
'celebrated Grief of *Orestes* which I am to per-
'sonate; but I shall not act as I ought, for I shall
'feel it too intimately to be able to utter it. I
'was last night repeating a Paragraph to my self,
'which I took to be an Expression of Rage, and
'in the Middle of the Sentence there was a Stroke
'of Self-pity which quite unmanned me. Be
'pleased, Sir, to print this Letter, that when I
'am oppressed in this Manner at such an Interval,
'a certain Part of the Audience may not think I
'am out; and I hope with this Allowance to do
'it to Satisfaction.

I am,

SIR,

Your most humble Servant,

George Powell.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'AS I was walking t'other Day in the *Park*, I
'saw a Gentleman with a very short Face;
'I desire to know whether it was you. Pray in-
'form me assoon as you can, lest I become the
'most heroick *Hecatissa*'s Rival.

Your humble Servant to Command,

Sophia.

Dear Madam,

'IT is not me you are in love with, for I was
'very ill, and kept my Chamber all that Day.

Your most humble Servant,

The SPECTATOR.

At the particular Desire of several Ladies of Quality.
By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Friday, being the 18 of February, will be presented the last reviv'd Play call'd, The Tempest, or the Inchanted Island, as it was alter'd from Shakespear by Sir Will. D'Avenant and the late Mr. Dryden, Poets Laureat; with new Scenes, Machines, and all the original Decorations proper to the Play. By Her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

For the Entertainment of Prince EUGENE.

On Monday the 4th of February, 1711-12, will be performed a great Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick in Italian, French and English. at the 2 Golden Balls in Hart-street at the upper End of Bow-street, Covent-Garden. Tickets are delivered at Youngman's Coffee house at Chairing Cross, and White's Chocolate house in St. James's-street.

Air-Pumps both single and double Barrell'd, with Apparitus for demonstrating the several Properties of the Air, Machines for condensing Air, small Air-Pumps, with Glasses for the new Way of Cupping; Scarrificators, one which at once makes 12, another 18, another 16 effectual Incisions; Syphons and Glasses with Valves for Anotomical Injections; Hydrostatical Balances for finding the Specifick Gravities of Liquids and Sollids with great Accuracy: All which according to the latest and best Improvements with Directions how to use and order them on all Occasions, to be had in Hind Court, Fleet street, by Fran. Hauksbee, Sen. Author of them, Fellow of the Royal Society; where likewise may be had, A new sort of Spirit of Wine, Lamps and Glasses for cupping, with printed Directions. Price of a Lamp, 6 Cupping Glasses, and 8 ounces of highly rectified Spirit of Wine 5 s. 6 d.

There is to be sold at very low Rates at Mr. Peverell's, at the Unicorn and Dial, up one Pair of Stairs, near Bread-Bridge, a fresh Parcel of Cravats and Cambricks for Handkerchiefs, being the Goods of Persons that have fail'd. The Cravats are put up three in a Paper, and the Price mark'd upon each Parcel.

Major Bird, Merchant, in Pudding-lane, has not pretended to sell French Brandy this 6 Month, there being not any Parcel to be sold in Town, though they have often pretended to advertise them. There being some French Prize Brandy sold lately which he has bought, and will sell it at 16 s. the Gallon, and the Portugal Brandy at 11 s. the Gallon, both sorts neat and clean, and to prevent Frauds gives the Bearer a printed Receipt of the Price, Quantity and Quality.

At the Mountain Wine-Cellar under the Royal South-Sea Coffee house in Broad-street, is sold by retail excellent Mountain Malaga Wine at 6 s. 8 d. per Gallon or 12 d. per Quart, being a fresh Parcel lately landed, and of the best Grape, and Red Viana Wine at 13 d. per Bottle. Such Persons as take a Gallon shall pay but 12 s. there being 13 Bottles, warranted neat and pure from the Grape.

Tim. Brandreth removed from Ludgate-street near St. Paul's to the Archimedes and Globe the Corner of Exchange Alley over against the Royal-Exchange in Cornhill, maketh with great Accuracy true Spectacles, Reading-Glasses, Telescopes, Microscopes, and all other Optick-Glasses, all sorts of curious Turning in Gold, Silver, &c. Globes of 20, 16, 12, 9 and 3 Inches Diameter, new sett of Two Sheet Maps, Plates, Sea-Books and Charts, with all sorts of Mathematical Instruments for Sea or Land: All of which will be sold at moderate Prices.

A SALE of WINES by RETALE.

Excellent new Bene-Carlo Barcelona, and Red and White Oporto, at 5 s. per Gallon and 16 d. a Quart; Certain Alicant at 6 s. a Gallon and 18 d. per Quart; Mountain Malaga at 6 s. 6 d. per Gallon and 20 d. a Quart; Curious Red Wine at 6 s. per Gallon; French Brandy at 14 s. per Gallon, other Brandy at 6 s. 6 d. per Gallon. Also curious new French Claret and White Wine at 7 s. per Gallon. All true neat Wines fit to Bottle; in a Vault under the House of Mr. Saunderson Merchant, in St. Swethin's-lane, next Door but one to the Rising Sun and Dial, that End leading into Canon-street. Attendance all Day till Night.

Yesterday was published,

When the Cat's away the Mice may play: A Fable: Humbly inscribed to Dr. Swift. Price 2d. Our Ancestors wise as we: or, ancient Precedents for modern Facts. Price 6 d. Cymbulum Mundi; or, Satyrical Dialogues upon several Subjects by Bonaventure des Perriers, Valet de Chambre to Margaret Queen of Navarre: Translated into English. Price 2 s. 6 d. All printed for A. Baldwin in Warwick lane: Where may be had, A Vindication of the Duke of Marlborough.

Just Publish'd,

A very neat Pocket Edition of the SPECTATOR in 2 Vol. 12°. Printed for S. Buckley at the Dolphin in Little Britain, and J. Tonson at Shakespear's Head over against Catherine-street in the Strand.

Newly published, by A. Baldwin in Warwick Lane,

A Sermon on the Fast-Day January 16, 1711-12 against such as delight in War. By a Divine of the Church of England. Printed for Sam. Buckley at the Dolphin in Little Britain. Price 3 d.

Famous Drops for Hypocondriack Melancholy, Which effectually cure on the Spot, by rectifying the Spirits of the Blood, cleansing them from all Impurities, and giving a new Turn to their Ferment, attenuating all viscous tenacious Humours that make the Head heavy, clog the Spirits, confuse the Mind, and cause the deepest Melancholy, with direful Views and black Apprehensions, comforting the Brain and Nerves, composing the hurried Thoughts, and introducing bright lively Ideas and pleasant Briskness, dissipating dismal Apprehensions and dark Incumbrance of the Soul, leaving the Intellectuals at Liberty to act with Courage, Serenity and Chearfulness, and causing a visible diffusive Joy to reign in the Face of uneasy Doubts, Fears, &c. for which they may be truly called infallible. Price 3 s. 6 d. a Bottle, with Directions. Sold by Mr. Bell's Bookseller at the Cross-Keys and Bible in Cornhill near the Royal-Exchange.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in: as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.